

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06822 251342Z

47 41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-13 CIEP-02 SCEM-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SY-10 OPR-02

DRC-01 INT-08 NEAE-00 ( ADP ) W  
----- 056818

P R 251232Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3955

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L QTEHRAN 6822

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IR

SUBJ: STRIKE CONTINUES IN KHUZISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 6796

SUMMARY. REFINERY EMPLOYEES IN ABADAN AND BANDAR MASHAHR STILL ON STRIKE AND REFINERY OPERATIONS ASSURED BY WHITE-COLLAR EMPLOYEES. HIGH LEVEL REFINERY OFFICIALS BELIEVE STRIKE PROMPTED BY OUTSIDE ORGANIZERS AND FEEL THAT IF STRIKE NOT SETTLED TODAY (WHICH IS UNLIKELY), REFINERY WILL EITHER BE SHUT DOWN SEPTEMBER 26 OR SECURITY AUTHORITIES WILL BE PERMITTED TO MAKE ARRESTS AND PRESSURE WORKERS INTO SUBMISSION. SO FAR, GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY REFUSING TO GIVE IN TO ANY OF WORKERS' DEMANDS. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 06822 251342Z

1. REFINERY EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THOSE IN NON-BASIC OPERATIONS IN

ABADAN AND BANDAR MASHAHR STILL ON STRIKE. SOME WORKERS REPORTED BACK ON JOB TODAY BUT WHITE-COLLAR EMPLOYEES HAVE TAKEN OVER REFINERY OPERATIONS WORKING TWO TWELVE-HOUR SHIFTS. STRIKE HAS NOT SPREAD TO OIL FIELDS AND OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT IT TO DO SO.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH HIGH-LEVEL REFINERY OFFICIAL, KHORRAMSHAHR CONOFF REPEATED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO NIOC MANAGING DIRECTOR, EQBAL, QTE IF WORKERS DO NOT GO BACK WE WILL SHUT DOWN REFINERY FOR A MONTH UNQTE. OFFICIAL NOTED HE HAD HEARD SUBSTANCE OF SAME REMARK AND STATED IRANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE DISTURBANCES SUCH AS STRIKES IN SENSITIVE BORDER AREAS. REFINERY NOT SO IMPORTANT TO IRANIAN ECONOMY THAT IT CANNOT BE CLOSED.

3. FOUR TOP-LEVEL REFINERY EXECUTIVES AGREE THAT OUTSIDE ORGANIZERS (READ IRAQIS) PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN STRIKE WHICH THEY REGARD AS TOO WELL-ORCHESTRATED TO BE STRICTLY INTERNAL AFFAIR. ONE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT SUBSTANCE OF EMPLOYEE/MANAGEMENT BARGAINING SESSION REPORTED SAME DAY ON RADIO BAGHDAD. ANOTHER SOURCE IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE THOUGH NONE HAS TAKEN PLACE YET. HE NOTED THAT SECURITY UNITS OFFER LITTLE PROTECTION SINCE UNIT MEMBERS LACK THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO STOP A DETERMINED SABOTEUR KNOWLEDGABLE REFINERY OPERATIONS.

4. OFFICIALS AGREE THAT GOI IS NOT PREPARED TO GIVE WORKERS ANYTHING ABOVE THE NATIONWIDE TEN PER CENT WAGE INCREASE GRANTED BEFORE STRIKE BEGAN. REFINERY MANAGEMENT UNDER PRESSURE FROM NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION (SAVAK) AND MILITARY TO PERMIT INTERVENTION NOW. MANAGEMENT FEELS TODAY'S EVENTS CRUCIAL. IF WORKERS NOT BACK ON JOB SEPTEMBER 26 A.M., SAVAK AND MILITARY ARE EXPECTED TO INTERVENE TO BREAK UP STRIKE WITH POSSIBLE VIOLENT RESULTS. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO VIOLENCE, NO ARRESTS, NO DISMISSALS BUT AFTER STRIKE REFINERY OFFICIALS EXPECT SOME ARRESTS AND SOME DISMISSALS WILL TAKE PLACE.

COMMENT: WE REGARD PROTRACTED STRIKE IN SENSITIVE AREA OF OIL OPERATIONS AS OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS MATTER UNDERLINING ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF RISING PRICES TO IRANIAN ECONOMY AND SOCIAL SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH REFINERY PROCESSES ONLY ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF IRAN'S OIL IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING OIL INCOME IS SUCH THAT WE SUSPECT EQBAL'S THREAT TO SHUT DOWN REFINERY LARGELY BLUFF AND THAT SHOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 06822 251342Z

PEACEFUL SOLUTION FAIL TO MATERIALIZE ACTION AGAINST WORKERS BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES CAN BE EXPECTED.

HELMS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, REFINERIES, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973TEHRAN06822  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS HELMS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730911/aaaaahpm.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** TEHRAN 6796  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STRIKE CONTINUES IN KHUZISTAN  
**TAGS:** PINS, IR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005